

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2186

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 06965

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, NATO, GW, UK, FR, UR, US

SUBJECT: QUADRIpartite DINNER AT OTTAWA MINISTERIAL

REF: (A) STATE 87751; (B) USNATO 2327

1. US REP RAISED AT APRIL 29 BONN GROUP MEETING THE MATTER OF SCHEDULING QUAD DINNER, OUTLINING CHOICES NOTED REFTEL A. UK REP (CULLIMORE) SAID HE THOUGHT THE TRADITION OF THE DINNER SHOULD BE MAINTAINED BUT THOUGHT THERE WAS NOTHING IMMUTABLE ABOUT ITS USUAL TIMING, I.E., ON THE EVE OF THE MINISTERIAL. HE ASKED FOR VIEWS ON POSSIBILITY OF PUTTING OFF DINNER UNTIL JUNE 18.

2. FRENCH REP (DE BOHIEU) RESPONDED THAT FRENCH BELIEVED TRADITION OF DINNERS MUST BE MAINTAINED AND THAT THE UPCOMING ONE WOULD HAVE A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AGENDA (E.G., BERLIN PROBLEMS, CSCE AND
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GERMANY). HE ALSO EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO POSTPONING

DINNER BY ONE DAY ON GROUNDS THIS WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS
IN PROVIDING BERLIN AND GERMANY COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE
TO NATO COMMUNIQUE DRAFTING GROUP.

3. FRG REP (LUECKING) SAID HE HAD FIRM INSTRUCTIONS
APPROVED BY STATE SECRETARY FRANK; (A) THERE IS NO
REASON TO CHANGE WELL-ESTABLISHED PROCEDURE OF HOLDING
THE DINNER ON THE EVE OF THE MINISTERIAL; (B) THE
TRADITION OF THE QUAD DINNER SHOULD BE MAINTAINED;
(C) THIS WOULD BE FIRST SUCH DINNER FOR NEW FRG FONMIN,
WHO WOULD BE EXPOSED TO DOMESTIC CRITICISM IF, JUST
AFTER HE HAD TAKEN OFFICE, THE DINNER WERE NOT HELD AS
IN PAST. FURTHER, SAID LUECKING, THE DISCUSSIONS AT
THIS DINNER WOULD BE OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE, SINCE
THE FRG THOUGHT A DISCUSSION OF OVERALL SOVIET BERLIN
POLICY WAS NECESSARY. MOREOVER, THE FRG FONOFF
CONSIDERED IT A GOOD IDEA FOR THE MINISTERS FORMALLY
TO APPROVE THE CONSULTATION PAPER ON BERLIN NOW BEFORE
BONN GROUP.

4. RECOGNIZING POSSIBLE CANADIAN SENSITIVITY TO
NEGATIVE REPLIES FROM THE FOUR MINISTERS TO TRUDEAU'S
DINNER INVITATION, BONN GROUP REPS DISCUSSED OTHER
POSSIBILITIES FOR MEETING, INCLUDING THAT OF LUNCHEON
AND AFTERNOON MEETING WHICH WOULD PRECEDE TRUDEAU'S
DINNER. FRENCH AND GERMAN REPS, HOWEVER, REEMPHASIZED
THEIR POSITION THAT QUAD DINNER TRADITION SHOULD BE
MAINTAINED AND THAT DINNER SHOULD BE HELD ON JUNE 17.
UK REP SAID THAT, WHILE HIS INSTRUCTIONS WERE LIMITED
TO SEEKING OTHERS' VIEWS, THERE WAS NO DOUBT ABOUT UK
FAVORING QUAD DINNER. IN LINE WITH INSTRUCTIONS PARA
4 REFTEL A, US REP ALSO INDICATED THAT US SUPPORTED THIS
POSITION AS WELL.

5. ALL REPS AGREED TO REPORT AND REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS,
INCLUDING THOUGHTS OF CAPITALS ON HOW THE CANADIANS
MIGHT BEST BE APPROACHED. THE UK AND FRENCH REPS
PROPOSED THAT MATTER OF QUAD DINNER BE CONSULTED AGAIN
IN BONN GROUP PRIOR TO ANY ACTION IN THE NATO FORUM
CONCERNING RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION FROM TRUDEAU.
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5. COMMENT: OUR VIEW AT THIS POINT IS THAT THE
CANADIAN AMBASSADOR SHOULD BE TOLD IN NATO BY THE FOUR
ALLIED AMBASSADORS THAT THE FOUR MINISTERS INTEND TO
HOLD THEIR TRADITIONAL QUADRIPARTITE DINNER ON JUNE 17,
NOTING THAT THE FOUR WILL HAVE SERIOUS BUSINESS TO
DISCUSS AND THAT THEIR SCHEDULE AND THEIR INVOLVEMENT
IN APPROVING GERMAN/BERLIN COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE DO NOT

PERMIT THE DINNER TO BE HELD AT ANOTHER TIME. THIS
MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR THE CANADIANS TO SWALLOW BUT THEY
OBVIOUSLY KNEW IN PROPOSING THE LARGER DINNER THAT THEY
WERE PREEMPTING THE FOUR FROM THEIR MEETING.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON TIMING OF
DINNER AND ON HANDLING OF CANADIAN INVITATION.
HILLENBRAND

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